



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



442814

OCT 30 2007

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF: S-6J

Mr. Robert Jonak
4351 S. Custer Avenue
Lyons, Illinois 60534

Ms. Antonie Parker
4614 Warsaw Avenue
Lyons, Illinois 60534

RE: "Citizen's petition" for a Preliminary Assessment on 4152 Lawndale Avenue (TIF #4 Lyons Landfill) and immediately surrounding area, including, Smith Park and Reliable Materials Lyons LLC located in Lyons, Illinois

Dear Mr. Jonak and Ms. Parker:

Thank you for your letter dated October 24, 2007, requesting that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) conduct a Preliminary Assessment (PA) on 4152 Lawndale Avenue (TIF #4 Lyons Landfill) and immediately surrounding area, including, Smith Park and Reliable Materials Lyons LLC located in Lyons, Illinois, pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 105(d). In a PA, U.S. EPA determines whether a hazardous substance released from a site may pose a risk to human health or the environment. U.S. EPA or its representatives usually conduct PAs when a person or organization calls the Agency's attention to a hazardous-substance release. The term "release" includes any means by which a substance could harm human health or the environment -- by spilling, leaking, discharging, dumping, injecting, or escaping. The purpose of a PA is to see if a threat does exist and what further action, if any, should be taken.

Your letter indicates that you believe the property at 4152 Lawndale Avenue had limestone aggregate surface mining operations since the 1890s. In addition, rumors and statements from former workers contend that from the 1950s to 1980, the eastern portion of the site was used to dispose of chemicals, used truck tires, railroad ties, coal tar, and foundry sand. In the early 1970s, Palumbo Asphalt maintained a facility on the site and allegedly spilled and/or disposed of asphalt waste and by-products on the property. Your letter also denotes that you have complained of odors from the property, and that similar odors have been emanating from the drains and the sewers as well as the wash rooms of the Lyons Library on Joliet Avenue. Your letter also reveals that you may have been exposed to soil contamination from the property during excavation activities on the northeast portion of the property. U.S. EPA has evaluated your PA petition and determined (1) there is reason to believe that an actual/potential site exists; (2) there is reason to believe that a petitioner is, or may be, affected by the actual/potential release;

(3) U.S. EPA has the legal authority under Superfund to respond to the site; and (4) a PA is warranted. Upon completion of the PA, U.S. EPA will determine if a Site Inspection (SI) which is also warranted. During the SI, U.S. EPA further evaluates the extent to which a site presents a threat to human health or the environment by, among other things, collecting and analyzing wastes and environmental media samples to determine whether hazardous substances are present at the site and are migrating to the surrounding environment.

U.S. EPA has contacted Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to perform a PA under a cooperative agreement IEPA has with U.S. EPA. U.S. EPA expects a PA report to be issued within *twelve months* of the date the PA Petition was received.

Thank you for your time and effort to alert U.S. EPA of this potential site. If you have any questions on this matter, please feel free to contact Laura Ripley of my staff at (312) 886-6040.

Sincerely,

 For R.C.K.

Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

cc: Thomas Crause, IEPA

bcc: Matthew Ohl, U.S. EPA
Laura Ripley, U.S. EPA ✓